GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1740
ANSWERED ON:09.12.2015
Privacy Concerns Regarding Digital India
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware of the US-based academics who have raised concerns about privacy under the Digital India project and if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the Government is taking concrete steps to ensure privacy of information with respect to Digital India; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the measures taken/being taken in this regard?

Answer

(a): No, Sir. Department of Electronics and Information Technology(DeitY) has not received any official information in this regard. However, as per an academic blog of some US Academicians, concerns have been shown.

(b) and (c): Specific provisions exist under the Information Technology Act, 2000 within Section 43, Section 43A and Section 72A which provides both policy guidelines and legal action in cases of break of privacy.

Indian Computer Emergency Response Team (CERT-In) has also empanelled auditors to facilitate body corporate to audit their information technology infrastructure and implementation of security best practices.

In the 4th India-US Cyber security dialogue held on 10th-13th August, 2015 at Washington DC, National Institute of Standards and Technology(NIST) invited Indian experts' participation in the work for the NIST coordinated Cyber Physical Systems Public Working Group(CPSPWG), particularly in the activities of Cyber security and Privacy Subgroup. NIST will share the mechanism being adopted by National Cyber security Centre of Exultance (NCCoE) to enable working jointly with industry.

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